## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 04951 060914Z

21

**ACTION ITF-05** 

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 A-01

OPR-02 IO-10 AID-20 IGA-01 /091 W ----- 034648

O 060850Z MAY 75 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4856

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SREF, VS, HK

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

- 1. NEWSMEN IN HONG KONG HAVE BEEN QUERYING CONGEN FOR EXPANSION OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO PRESS SPOKESMAN ANDERSON TO EFFECT THAT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CURRENTLY IN HONG KONG FROM DANISH MERCHANT SHIP CLARA MAERSK WERE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HKG AND DANISH GOVERNMENT. ONE INQUIRER INDICATED THAT THE PHRASE "IN THE FIRST INSTANCE" WAS INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT.
- 2. IF TRUE, STATEMENT IS NOT HELPFUL IN OUR PRESENT SITUATION WITH AT LEAST 3,871 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES CURRENTLY BEING CARED FOR BY HKG. WHILE HKG APPRECIATES USG INTEREST IN INTERNATIONALIZING THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE PROBLEM, IT DOES NOT CONTEMPLATE BEING THE RESETTLEMENT SITE FOR MORE THAN A HANDFUL WHO MIGHT HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES ALREADY IN HONG KONG. ANY PUBLIC USG STATEMENT INDICATING THAT HKG HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REFUGEES, EVEN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, WE BELIEVE WILL LEAD TO DEFINITE COOLNESS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS ON THIS ISSUE AND WILL NOT BE OF ANY BENEFIT LOCALLY IN DEALING WITH PROBLEM.

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PAGE 02 HONG K 04951 060914Z

3. IF STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE, REQUEST ADVICE IMMEDIATE-LY ON POSSIBLE RESPONSE CONGEN SPOKESMAN CAN MAKE TO EN-QUIRERS AS WELL AS TEXT OF STATEMENT. CROSS

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## Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Subject: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG TAGS: SREF, VS, HK To: STATE

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